



They will be de-  
cated in memory of  
two South Plainfield  
Police officers who died  
in the line of duty. See story on page 3.



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## Stimulus Funding Accelerates CDE Cleanup



Workers at the Cornell-Dubilier Electronics superfund site in the process of soil remediation in preparation for the New Market Avenue extension.

By Jean Fultz

While the ongoing cleanup of the Cornell-Dubilier Electronics (CDE) Superfund site on Hamilton Boulevard has progressed steadily over the past two years, it is the infusion of more than \$25M in economic stimulus money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that has accelerated the process over the past several months. Most notably, a large white tent-like structure and what EPA Remedial Project Manager Peter Mannino called a "thermal unit," is in the process of being assembled on-site.

Cornell-Dubilier began operations in South Plainfield in 1936, manufacturing electronic parts until 1962. Capacitors and other electronic components were dumped on the property. In 1997 soil tests showed elevated levels of PCBs, which are known to cause cancer, as well as benzene, lead and other organic and inorganic chemicals. The EPA ordered Hamilton Industrial Park, the property owner, to take steps to limit access to PCB contaminated areas by paving over all visible areas of the site.

Lake, was also issued by the EPA and remains in place today. The site was added to the Superfund National Priorities List in 1998.

After nearly a decade, clean up began in earnest in 2007 with the demolition of the 18 buildings on the property. More than one million tons of water was sprayed on the buildings as they were demolished to minimize the release of contaminated dust. More than 24 tons of building debris was trucked off-site. In June of 2008 the entire area was excavated and 21 tons of soil and debris was removed in what the EPA has called "the capacitor disposal area" at the far end of the property. The entire area was then paved over and four air monitoring systems were placed on the property. Thirty-one ground water monitoring wells were also installed on- and off-site.

Now the cleanup is moving into a new phase: treatment of the contaminated soil beneath the asphalt.

According to Mannino, the installation of the Low Temperature Thermal Desorption unit ("thermal unit") by Maxymillian Technologies should be completed by the end of the month.

## Council Approves Fall Bulk Pickup

The Borough Council approved a sure if there would be a pick up this there was a way to find a fall pickup





Air monitoring equipment (left) and the structure (right) that will house the excavated soil prior to treatment.

## Stimulus Funding Accelerates CDE Cleanup

(Continued from page 1)

employees on site, will oversee its operation. Oversight will also be provided by the Army Corps of Engineers, who have five employees on site, as well as the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection, to ensure the proper and safe operation of the thermal unit. In addition, health and safety measures are in place to ensure protection for the community as well as for the contractors and visitors who will be on-site while the unit is in operation. Mannino noted that the thermal unit has been operated at other sites in New Jersey without incident.

The thermal unit should be fully operational by mid-October. Powered by propane, it will run 24 hours a day, seven days a week with the exception of scheduled maintenance that may take place on Sundays. Propane will be stored in four, 2,000-gallon tanks on the property, with daily delivery by tanker trucks. Discharge from the three exhaust stacks will be the products of combustion, what Mannino called a "heat wave." There will be no vapor, steam nor particles of any kind discharged into the air.

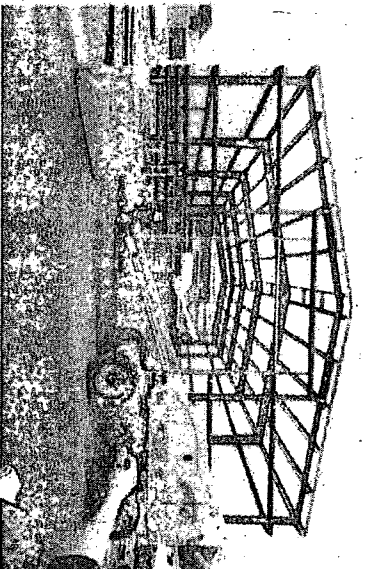
The on-site treatment of contaminated soil, with a feed rate of 18-20 tons per hour via conveyor belt, will result in approximately 150,000 tons of soil treated over the course of the next 11-12 months. The treated soil will then be used as backfill on the site and capped. Any soil that still exceeds acceptable levels of PCBs or other contaminants will be trucked off-site for disposal.

The first step in the treatment of the soil has begun with the opening of the asphalt "cap" in an area to the right of the entrance, directly behind the now-vacant land that was purchased by the borough for the New Market Avenue extension.

When asked about the impact the cleanup would have on this project, Mannino stated that they have been working closely with the borough in an effort not to interfere with "plans to build the roadway. Should the 'cap' have to be disturbed during construction of the road, the EPA would oversee the removal of the cap, at no cost to the borough. If progress continues as planned, the land in this area only could be released as early as mid-October.

**Next week:** The operation of the thermal unit, quality of life issues and what happens when the process is complete.

**Editor's Note:** Last Thursday the Observer was invited to tour the



Cornell-Dublier Electronics (CDE) superfund site at 333 Hamilton Block. The tour was led by Peter Mannino, EPA remedial project manager and Pat Suppi, EPA community involvement coordinator.

During the 26-acre site required a 30-minute safety briefing by Eric Tichink, Scranton Environmental Services, the main contractor for the site under the Army Corps of Engineers. Hard hats, safety glasses and warning vests were provided.

The EPA invites residents and other interested parties to tour the CDE site. Groups of five to seven

people at a time can request a tour by calling Peter Mannino, remedial project manager for the U.S. EPA Region II at (212) 637-4395. E-mail: [mannino.pietro@epa.gov](mailto:mannino.pietro@epa.gov) or Pat Suppi, community involvement coordinator at (212) 637-3679. E-mail: [psuppi@epa.gov](mailto:psuppi@epa.gov).

Prior to walking the site, visitors will be required to attend a 30-minute health and safety lesson, provide emergency contact information, and on a voluntary basis, provide pertinent medical information in the event an emergency arises while on site.

# SEPTEMBER SPECIALS

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